

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 9, and 10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 2, 4, 9 and 10 are rewritten in independent form. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7, 9, and 10. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

The Office Action indicated that claims 2-7, 9 and 10 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In an effort to expedite prosecution of this matter, Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 8 without prejudice. In light of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the

Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: June 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By
Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 835-1400
Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs/hc